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Globalization and interdependence

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Bitrus Vandy Yohanna (Nigeria), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.13

Culture and development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 41/187 of 8 December 1986, 46/158 of 19 December 1991, 51/179 of 16 December 1996, 52/197 of 18 December 1997, 53/184 of 15 December 1998, 55/192 of 20 December 2000, 57/249 of 20 December 2002, and 65/166 of 20 December 2010, concerning culture and development,

Recalling also the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity[1] and the Action Plan for its implementation,[2] on 2 November 2001, and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions,[3] as well as other international conventions of that organization that acknowledge the important role of cultural diversity for social and economic development, and welcoming the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity at the thirty-sixth General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Recognizing that culture is an essential component of human development, represents a source of identity, innovation and creativity for the individual and the

[1] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October-3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 25, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex I.

[3] Ibid., *Thirty-third Session, Paris, 3-21 October 2005*, vol. 1 and corrigenda, *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 41.

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community and is an important factor in social inclusion and poverty eradication, providing for economic growth and ownership of development processes,

Acknowledging that cultural diversity is a source of enrichment for humankind and an important contributor to the sustainable development of local communities, peoples and nations, empowering them to play an active and unique role in development initiatives,

Recalling the concerns expressed in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[4] on the underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions in the area of culture, which has prevented women from having a significant impact in the area of culture and development,

Recalling the importance of the promotion of national cultures, artistic creation in all its forms and international and regional cultural cooperation, and reaffirming in this regard the relevance of strengthening national efforts and regional and international cooperation mechanisms for cultural action and artistic creation,

Recognizing the linkages between cultural and biological diversity and the positive contribution of local and indigenous traditional knowledge in addressing environmental challenges in a sustainable manner,

Noting with satisfaction that, in its resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals", the General Assembly emphasized the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and, in that respect, encouraged international cooperation in the cultural field, aimed at achieving development objectives,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[5] and in this regard acknowledging the work undertaken by United Nations agencies to optimize the contributions of culture to sustainable development,

Acknowledging the importance of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of culture for the achievement of sustainable development and of national development objectives and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

2. *Recognizes* that culture contributes to the development of innovative creative capacities of people and is an important component of modernization and innovations in economic and social life;

3. *Invites* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders:

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[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] A/66/187.

(a) To raise public awareness of the importance of cultural diversity for sustainable development, promoting its positive value through education and media tools;

(b) To ensure a more visible and effective integration and mainstreaming of culture into social, environmental and economic development policies and strategies at all levels;

(c) To promote capacity-building, where appropriate, at all levels for the development of a dynamic cultural and creative sector, in particular by encouraging creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship, supporting the development of cultural institutions and cultural industries, providing technical and vocational training for culture professionals and increasing employment opportunities in the cultural and creative sector for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development;

(d) To actively support the emergence of local markets for cultural goods and services and to facilitate the effective and licit access of such goods and services to international markets, taking into account the expanding range of cultural production and consumption and, for States parties to it, the provisions of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;[5]

(e) To enhance women's active share in cultural decision-making with men and to undertake activities to promote women's empowerment and the perception of attitudes and a culture favourable to equality;

(f) To preserve and maintain local and indigenous traditional knowledge and community practices of environmental management, which are valuable examples of culture as a vehicle for sustainable development, and to foster synergies between modern science and technology and local and indigenous knowledge, practices and innovation;

(g) To promote global awareness of the linkages between cultural and biological diversity, including through the protection and encouragement of the customary use of biological resources, in accordance with traditional cultural practices, as a key element of a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

(h) To support national legal frameworks and policies for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and cultural property,[6] the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property and the return of cultural property,[7] in accordance with national legislation and applicable international legal frameworks, including by promoting international cooperation to prevent the misappropriation of cultural heritage and products, recognizing the importance of intellectual property rights in sustaining those involved in cultural creativity;

(i) To note that, in achieving these objectives, innovative mechanisms of financing can make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries in

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[6] As defined in article 1 of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 823, No. 11806).

[7] In line with the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

mobilizing additional resources for development on a stable, predictable and voluntary basis, and to reiterate that such voluntary mechanisms should be effective, should aim to mobilize resources that are stable and predictable, should supplement and not be substituted for traditional sources of financing, should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries and should not unduly burden such countries;

4. *Encourages* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to enhance international cooperation in supporting the efforts of developing countries for the development and consolidation of cultural industries, cultural tourism and culture-related microenterprises and to assist those countries in developing the necessary infrastructure and skills, as well as in mastering information and communications technologies and gaining access to new technologies on mutually agreed terms;

5. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to continue to provide support and to facilitate financing and to assist Member States, upon their request, in developing their national capacities to assess how best to optimize the contribution of culture to development, including through information-sharing, exchange of best practices, data collection, research and study, and the use of appropriate evaluation indicators, as well as to implement applicable international cultural conventions, taking into account the relevant General Assembly resolutions;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to assess the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development through the compilation of quantitative data, including indicators and statistics, with a view to informing development policies and relevant reports, where appropriate;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that United Nations country teams continue to further integrate and mainstream culture into their programming exercises, in particular United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, in consultation with relevant national authorities, when assisting countries in the pursuit of their development objectives;

8. *Encourages* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to take into consideration the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development in the formulation of national, regional and international development policies and international cooperation instruments;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution and to assess, in consultation with relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations development system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, the feasibility of various measures, including a possible United Nations conference, to take stock of the contribution of culture to development and to formulate a consolidated approach to culture and development and, in this context, takes note of the annual ministerial review on the theme of "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for

promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals" to be held by the Economic and Social Council in 2013;

10. *Encourages* Member States to share with the Secretary-General information and lessons learned on the contribution of culture to the achievement of development as a contribution to the United Nations development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", a sub-item entitled "Culture and development".